



## 2026 Basic Merit Labor Management Committee Basic Civil Service Candidates Declared Elected

(There are six seats available and only four candidates were nominated, so the candidates are declared elected.)

### Name: **Nicole Djakovic**

Where do you work and what do you do?

Duluth GSC Application Developer in Information Technology

How long have you worked for the County? 12 years

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

BMOC member for the past 3 years and MAT training (MAT leader for IT for about 10 years)

Why would you be a good member of the Basic Merit Labor Management Committee?

I think addressing items outside of negotiations is important, we shouldn't have to wait 3 years to resolve some of our workplace issues. I believe I can help foster communication from members to management and the employer, because problem solving is one of my strengths. I thrive on focusing on how things can be improved and finding solutions, I am very goal oriented, I think I can use these strengths to be a voice for all members in the Labor Management Committee.



### Name: **Stephen Erickson**

Where do you work and what do you do?

Virginia GSC I work for Enterprise GIS division of Economic and Community Development.

How long have you worked for the County? 8 years

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

For the past 8 years I've attended meetings and other union events. I have been looking to be more involved with the union.

Why would you be a good member of the Basic Merit Labor Management Committee?

It is important that members' concerns are addressed and communications are shared consistently across the county. I would do my best to make sure ALL members' concerns are heard as they relate to the LMC. Ultimately, since we're all volunteers our union is only as good as the effort we put in. We are stronger together.



Name: **Jacob Littler**

Where do you work and what do you do?

Virginia GSC Financial Worker Sr on the Disability Waivers team

How long have you worked for the County? 14 years as of August

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union? I

have attended multiple Days on the Hill, as well as serving on candidate screening boards and doing lost time work in support of AFSCME political power. I am a longtime and loud AFSCME advocate, taking many opportunities to engage in direct actions with our brothers and sisters across Council 5 and the Labor movement in general.

Why would you be a good member of the Basic Merit Labor Management Committee? I believe I would serve well in this role because of my ability to quickly absorb policy and contract language and see how it will interact, as well as my drive to find efficiencies across our systems that doesn't negatively impact workers. I also bring a commitment to collaboration and consensus building while still fiercely advocating for those not at the table and never abandoning deeply held principles.



Name: **Shawn Wentz**

Where do you work and what do you do?

I'm an Info Specialist II, currently in the HCBS division and previously with ESS at the Government Services Building in Duluth.

How long have you worked for the County? 11 years

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

I have been a union member since I started with the county 11 years ago.

I was also a union member in two former positions before employment with the county. I have taken the union steward training and been part of supporting the negotiating team during contract negotiations. I've been involved with an Employee Resource Group for the past 3 years and

have also the Kaleidoscope group which is a collaboration between management, employees and commissioners to oversee the diversity, equity and inclusion of all employees.

Why would you be a good member of the Basic Merit Labor Management Committee?

I have demonstrated that I am a reliable team member and have a good work ethic in all of the teams that I have been involved with at the county. I have a positive outlook and believe in collaborative problem solving. I think there are steps that can be taken and positive changes that can be made to improve the lives of SLC workers and the community that they serve.

